African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program Survey

Report of Findings

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

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African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program Survey Report of Findings

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship (ANSSS) program provides financial assistance to students of African descent to continue their education beyond high school. Scholarship funding is available for students who have completed Grade 12 in the Nova Scotia public school system and who are enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program.

In 2004, the Department of Education conducted a survey of ANSSS recipients to determine whether the scholarship program is meeting its objective and whether changes are needed to the program. The survey instrument was a seven-page self-administered questionnaire. There were 232 responses to the survey, from the adjusted population of 814. The survey response rate was 29 per cent.

A 29 per cent response rate is considerably lower than response rates recommended in survey methodology. A low response rate makes it difficult to apply the results of the survey to all ANSSS recipients. However, 232 respondents to the survey provide a substantial amount of information and insight into the program. Specifically, the results show the ability of the program to provide financial assistance to encourage scholarship recipients to continue their education beyond high school and meet their personal educational, career, and professional objectives.

Although the financial benefit from the ANSSS was small for most respondents, in some cases the scholarship contributed to a respondents' ability to stay in school. Most respondents said their scholarship defrayed only a small amount of tuition costs and they would have continued their education without the scholarship. However, when asked for comments about the program, some respondents said that the ANSSS helped them stay in school and provided encouragement, motivation, and opportunities for personal development.

The survey results show that the ANSSS helped some survey respondents achieve their educational, career, and professional objectives. At the time of the survey, most respondents had either completed their program of study or were working towards its completion. More than two-thirds of respondents were employed and more than half reported that their job related either directly or indirectly to their program of study.

Survey respondents were generally encouraging about the application process, application material, and administration of the scholarship program. However, the results were mixed regarding the program's profile in the schools and community.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship (ANSSS) program (formerly called the Education Incentive Program) provides financial assistance to Nova Scotian students of African descent to continue their education beyond high school. The scholarship program is administered through African Canadian Services (ACS), located within the Public Schools Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education. In 1996, ACS was created and assumed responsibility for the scholarship program from Student Assistance.

The ANSSS is available for students who have completed grade 12 in a Nova Scotia public school and who are enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program having an entrance requirement of grade 12. The ANSSS Program Survey considers four categories of the scholarship program:

- university entrance scholarship (75% average or higher)—$4500
- post-secondary promotion award (less than 75% average)—$2000
- community college or trade school award—$1200
- performing arts award—$1000

Following the successful completion of grade 12, students enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution are eligible for an ANSSS award for the year following high school graduation, to a maximum of two awards. The university entrance scholarship is available for one year only. After successful completion of their first year, university entrance scholarship recipients may apply the following year for the post-secondary award. The performing arts award is available in conjunction with the university entrance scholarship and post-secondary award and is available for one year only.

Objective

The objective of the ANSSS Program Survey was to collect information from scholarship recipients to determine if the scholarship program has achieved its objective and whether changes are needed.

The scholarship program's objective is to provide financial assistance to African Nova Scotian (Black) students to encourage them to continue their post-secondary education immediately following completion of Grade 12, develop leadership potential, and meet educational, career, and professional objectives. The survey was also developed to examine and identify improvements, if required, to the following process-related components of the program:

- the application process
- the funding process
- the overall administration of the program

METHODOLOGY

Population

The ANSSS Program Survey population included all recipients of an African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship since ACS assumed administration of the program from Student Assistance, from 1996–97 to 2002–03 inclusively. The survey considered only the first educational program for which the student received the scholarship.

The survey population included recipients of the university entrance scholarship, post-secondary promotion award, community college or trade school award, and the performing arts award. Excluded from the population were recipients of the scholarships for teacher education and scholarships for science professions. Also excluded, were applicants to the scholarship program who completed their initial educational program and were applying to another educational program, and/or those who had left their initial educational program for a time period and were returning to school.

The total survey population was 939 scholarship recipients. The adjusted population, removing the scholarship recipients whose mail was undeliverable, was 814 scholarship recipients.

Survey Administration

The survey instrument was a seven-page self-administered questionnaire completed individually by scholarship recipients and mailed back to the Department of Education. The survey included 25 questions that asked about educational program of study, financing education, employment, and the ANSSS program. As well, the survey collected demographic information. (See the Appendix for a copy of the questionnaire.)

A draft questionnaire was pre-tested with 20 randomly chosen ANSSS recipients. The questionnaire, cover letter, reminder card, and advance notice card were modified based on feedback from the pre-test.

Scholarship recipients were asked to respond within two weeks of receipt of the questionnaire. To increase the response rate as much as possible, non-respondents were sent two reminder cards.

Coding considerations and data analysis were done in-house by Corporate Policy. Data entry was contracted to a consultant.

SURVEY RESPONSE

The ANSSS Program Survey received 232 responses from the adjusted population of 814. The survey response rate was 29 per cent.

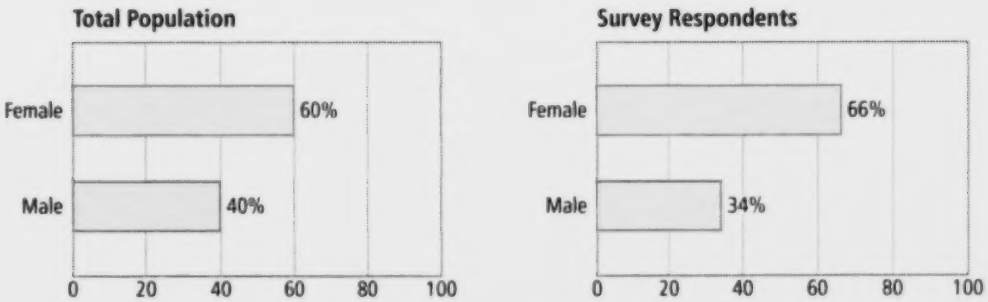
According to the Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment at the University of Texas, a response rate of 50 per cent for a mail survey is adequate, 60 per cent is good and 70 per cent very good[1]. Statistics Canada states that for a survey where results will be used to analyse responses to questions, a 68 per cent response rate is very good. A good response rate is needed to measure demographic breakdowns, for example to examine different responses by gender, age, and location. With a lower response rate, Statistics Canada recommends that survey analysis only include responses to closed questions[2].

The National Centre for Education Statistics in the United States requires non-response bias analysis on surveys with a response rate lower than 70 per cent. Bias is associated with low response rates and a strong difference between survey respondents and the total survey population[3].

The ANSSS survey response rate of 29 per cent is considerably lower than the recommended response rates mentioned by Statistics Canada, the National Centre for Education Statistics, and the Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment. Because of the low response rate, two variables—gender and type of scholarship received—were analysed for response bias.

Gender

The survey results show minimal gender bias. There is a slightly higher representation of female respondents, compared to the total scholarship recipient population. In the total population 60 per cent were female and 66 per cent of respondents were female.



[1] Quick Tip 6.16 Data Gathering: Survey Response Rates. The Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment. http://www.utexas.edu/academic/diia/assessment/iar/resources/quicktips/quicktip_6-16.pdf

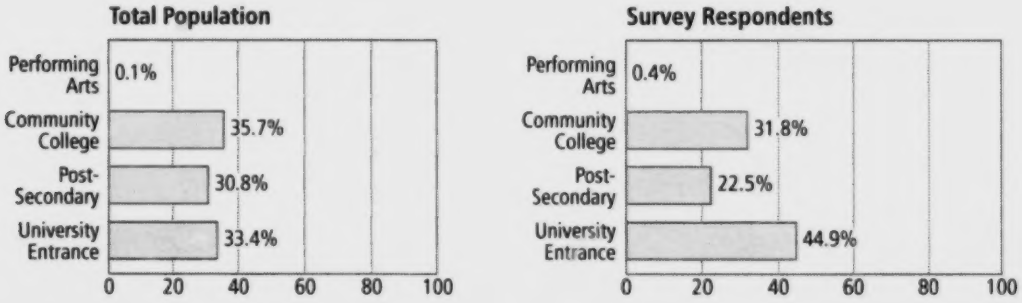
[2] Saint-Pierre, Yves. Education Liaison Officer. E-mail from Statistics Canada July 28, 2005.

[3] Bose, Jonaki. Nonresponse Bias Analysis at the National Centre for Education Statistics. Proceedings of Statistics Canada Symposium 2001.

Type of Scholarship Received

The survey results show some bias regarding type of scholarship received. Among the total population of scholarship recipients, there was a relatively equal distribution of recipients who received the community college, post-secondary, and university entrance scholarships. Survey respondents, however, were weighted toward recipients of the university entrance scholarship.

Almost half (or 45 per cent) of respondents were university entrance scholarship recipients compared to 33 per cent of the total population. Also, the proportion of post-secondary scholarship recipients was lower at 23 per cent of respondents compared to 32 per cent of the total population.



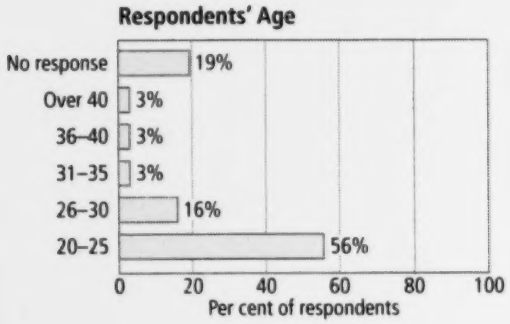
In closing, the results of the survey need to be interpreted with caution. Not only is the response rate low based on acceptable response rates for mail-in surveys, the survey results may be biased based on the type of scholarships received. Based on information from Statistics Canada, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment, it is difficult to apply the survey results to the population of ANSSS recipients and not appropriate to conduct demographic breakdowns of the data.

KEY FINDINGS

As mentioned previously, due to the survey's low response rate, it is difficult to apply the results of the survey to the population of ANSSS recipients. Regardless, the survey results provide insight into the ANSSS program from the perspective of the 232 scholarship recipients who responded to the survey. The survey results are examined to determine if respondents felt that the program meets its objectives or requires changes.

Profile of Respondents

The majority of respondents (69 per cent) lived in Nova Scotia, of which 62 per cent lived in Halifax Regional Municipality. For the population not living in Nova Scotia, the most common places to live were Newfoundland (45 per cent), PEI (19 per cent), and Ontario (19 per cent). Most respondents were 30 years of age or younger, with 56 per cent between the ages of 20 and 25 years, and 16 per cent between 26 and 30 years.



As mentioned earlier, 66 per cent of respondents were female and 34 per cent were male. As well, the most common scholarship received by respondents was the university entrance scholarship at 45 per cent. Thirty-two per cent of respondents were recipients of the community college award and 23 per cent were recipients of the post-secondary award. One respondent was a recipient of the performing arts award.

Meeting Program Objectives

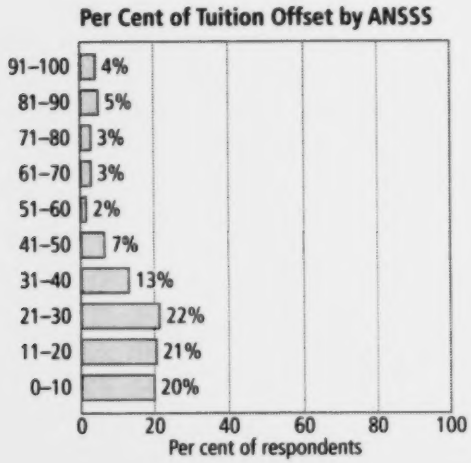
The program objective was broken down into two parts to determine whether respondents felt the ANSSS program meets its objective. The analysis looks at whether respondents felt that the ANSSS

- provided financial assistance that encouraged them to continue post-secondary education
- helped them meet their educational, career, and professional objectives

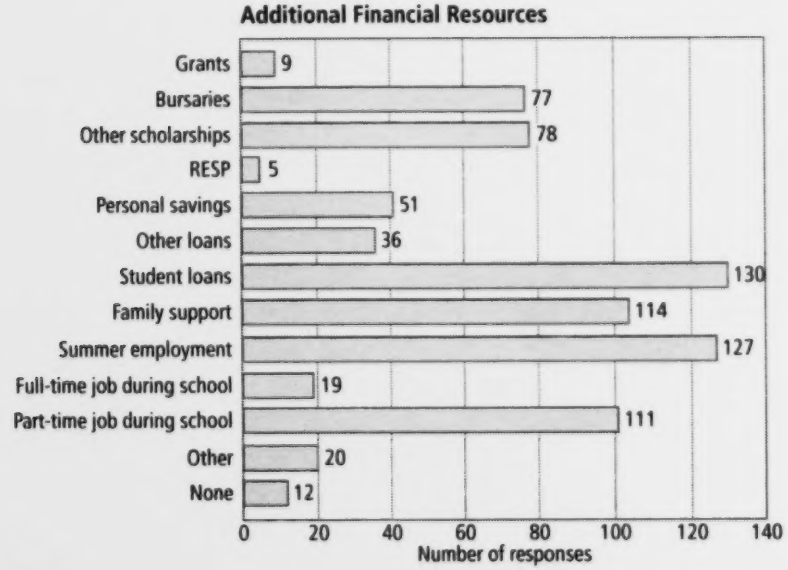
Continue Post-Secondary Education

Response to questions about financing education and financial and other benefits provided by the ANSSS were examined to assess whether the scholarship encouraged survey respondents to continue their post-secondary education.

The majority of survey respondents (83 per cent) said that their scholarship covered less than half of their tuition. For 41 per cent of survey respondents, the ANSSS off-set 20 per cent or less of their tuition.



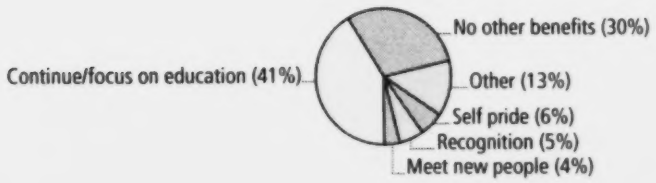
Most respondents required additional sources of income to pay for school. When asked to choose all additional financial resources besides the ANSSS used to pay for post-secondary education, only 12 respondents said they did not require any additional resources. Many respondents chose more than one additional financial resource. Student loans, summer employment, family support, and part-time employment during school were chosen most often by respondents.



Interestingly, the ANSSS did not necessarily encourage survey respondents to continue their education following high school. The majority of survey respondents (91 per cent) said they would have pursued a post-secondary education even if they had not received the ANSSS. Of the 9 per cent who said they would not have pursued their program of study without the ANSSS, 68 per cent said this was due to lack of finances.

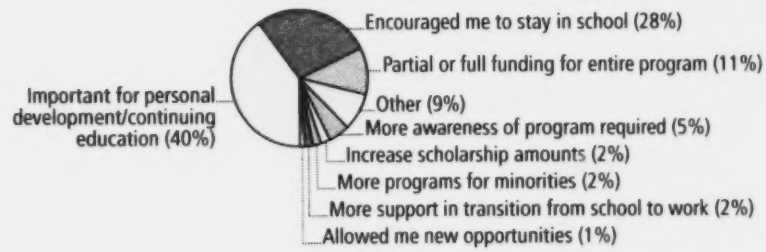
When asked what other benefits they experienced, other than financial benefits, 41 per cent of respondents mentioned that the ANSSS encouraged them to continue their education or focus on education. The question was completed by only 64 per cent of survey respondents.

Other Benefits



The final question in the survey asked for any additional comments about the program. Only 53 per cent of respondents answered this question. However, the most common responses were related to the ANSSS encouraging them to stay in school. Over one quarter (28 per cent) of respondents said the program was excellent and encouraged them to stay in school, and 40 per cent of respondents stated that the ANSSS program was important for personal development and continuing education.

Additional Comments about ANSSS Program


Encouraged me to stay in school (28%)
Partial or full funding for entire program (11%)
Important for personal development/continuing education (40%)
Other (9%)
More awareness of program required (5%)
Increase scholarship amounts (2%)
More programs for minorities (2%)
More support in transition from school to work (2%)
Allowed me new opportunities (1%)

Although the financial benefit from the ANSSS was small for most respondents, the scholarship may have played a role in some respondents' ability to stay in school. Most respondents said that their scholarship defrayed only a small amount of tuition costs and that they would have continued their education without the scholarship. However, it is notable that some respondents mentioned other benefits, besides financial ones, received from the scholarship. Respondents commented that the ANSSS contributed to their ability to stay in school and that the scholarship provided encouragement, motivation, and personal development.

Educational, Career, and Professional Objectives

Response to questions about educational program and employment were considered to assess the ANSSS' ability to encourage survey respondents to meet their educational, career, and professional objectives.

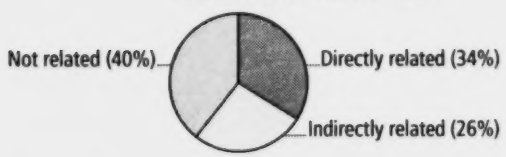
At the time of the survey, there were more respondents who had not completed their education program (57 per cent) than those who had completed their education (41 per cent). However, the majority of respondents (71 per cent) who had not completed their program of study were still enrolled in their program and were working towards its completion.

About half of respondents reported that they chose their program of study because they had a personal interest in the subject. Some chose their program of study because it offered a variety of occupational choices and because it was required for their choice of career.

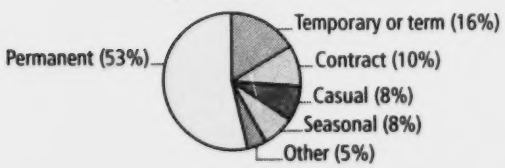
Reason for Choosing Education Program

Most respondents (69 per cent) were employed at the time of the survey. Most employed respondents reported that their job is directly (34 per cent) or indirectly (26 per cent) related to their educational program. More than half of employed respondents (59 per cent) worked full-time, and 53 per cent said their job was permanent.

Relation of Job to Education



Job Status



Slightly more respondents are university degree recipients (56 per cent) than college diploma recipients (44 per cent). This is not surprising as there was a higher proportion of university scholarship recipients who responded to the survey. Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of respondents have a bachelor of science degree and 22 per cent of respondents have a bachelor of arts.

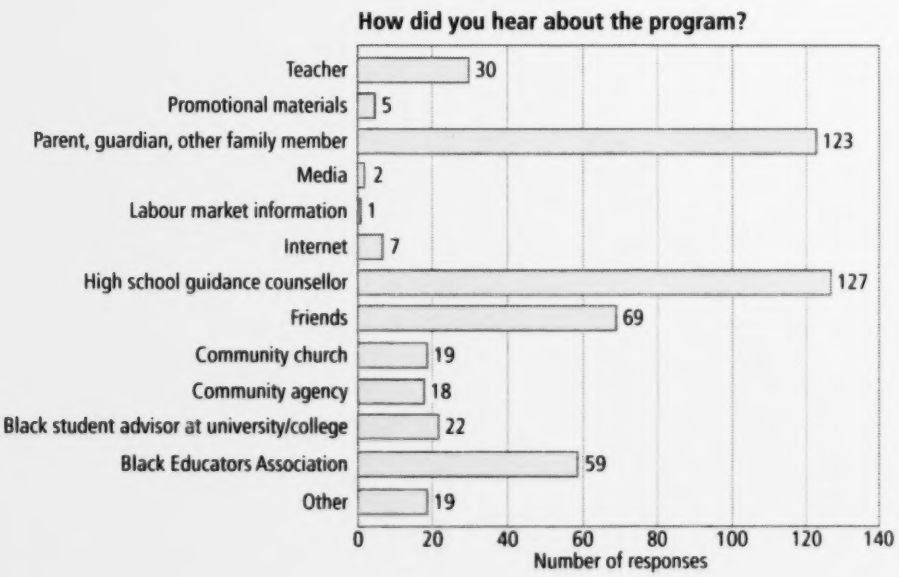
The ANSSS may have helped survey respondents achieve their educational, career, and professional objectives. Many survey respondents were in a positive education and career situation at the time of the survey. Most respondents had either completed their program of study or were working towards its completion. More than two-thirds of respondents were employed, and more than half of the jobs held by survey respondents related either directly or indirectly to their program of study.

About the Program

Responses to questions about ANSSS program's profile, administration, application process, and funding were examined to assess the process-related components of the program.

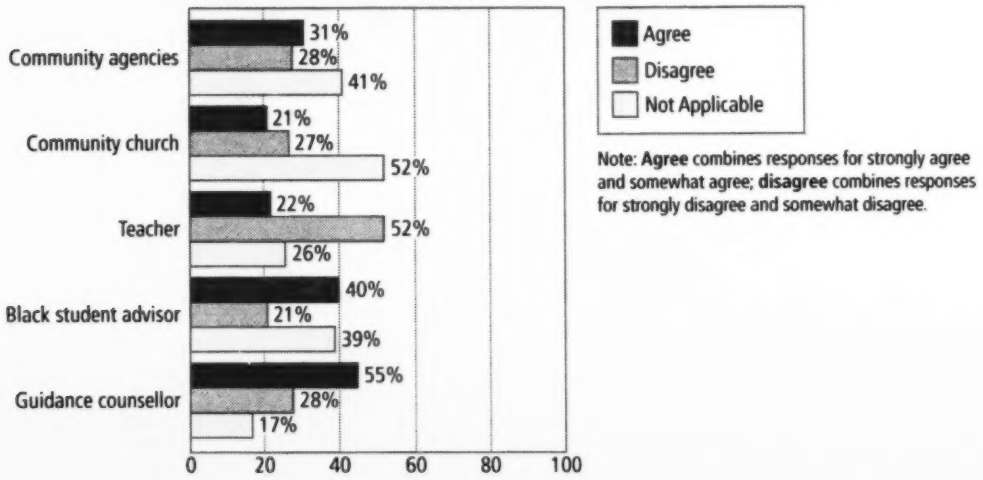
Program's Profile

When asked to choose the different ways they heard about the program, many respondents gave more than one response. A high school guidance counsellor or a parent, guardian, or family member were the most common ways to hear about the program. Some respondents reported they heard about the program from friends and the Black Educators Association. Very few respondents heard about the program from the Internet, promotional material, media, and labour market information.



Survey results show that knowledge about the ANSSS program varies within the school system. According to survey respondents, a guidance counsellor is probably the best source of information about the program. Thirty-one per cent of respondents strongly agreed and 24 per cent of respondents somewhat agreed with the statement "My guidance counselor was able to explain the program to me."

Aware of and Able to Explain the Program



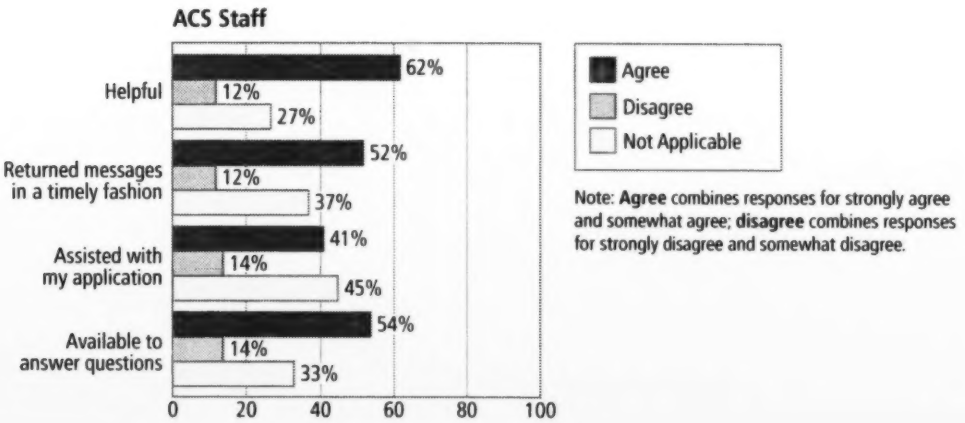
Note: **Agree** combines responses for strongly agree and somewhat agree; **disagree** combines responses for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

However, survey results show that teachers may not be as knowledgeable as they could be about the ANSSS program. Half of respondents reported that they strongly disagree or somewhat disagree with the statement "My teacher was aware of the program and able to explain it to me." Only 7 per cent of respondents said they strongly agree and 13 per cent said they somewhat agree with this statement.

Program Administration

Survey respondents reported that ACS staff were helpful and accessible. However, results indicate that some respondents did not utilize ACS staff for assistance and information.

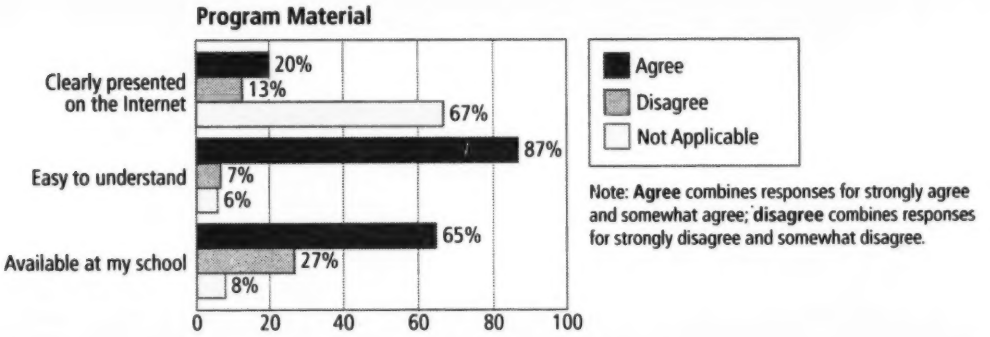
Among the respondents who worked with ACS staff, their experience tended to be positive. Very few respondents disagreed with the statements about whether ACS staff were available to answer questions, were able to assist in completing applications, returned messages in a timely fashion, and were helpful. However, almost half of respondents (45 per cent) said the statement "ACS staff were able to assist me in completing my application" was not applicable and 37 per cent of respondents said the statement "ACS staff returned messages in a timely fashion" was not applicable.



Note: **Agree** combines responses for strongly agree and somewhat agree; **disagree** combines responses for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

Application Process/Program Material

The majority of survey respondents said that the ANSSS program applications and pamphlets were understandable and available at their school. More than half (58 per cent) of respondents strongly agreed and 29 per cent somewhat agreed with the statement "Application/pamphlets on the program were easy to understand." Almost one third (31 per cent) of respondents strongly agreed and 34 per cent somewhat agreed with the statement "Applications/pamphlets on the program were readily available at my school."

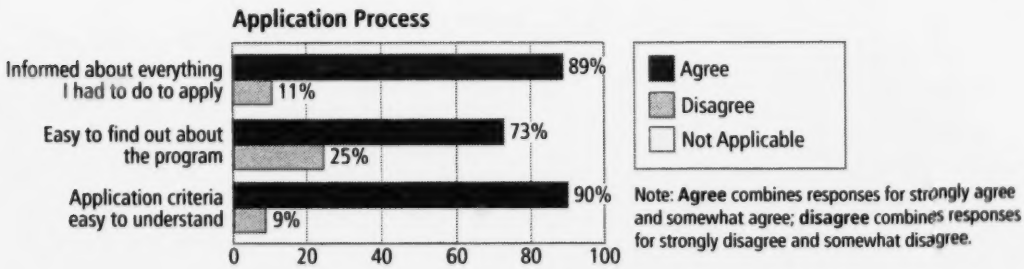


Note: **Agree** combines responses for strongly agree and somewhat agree; **disagree** combines responses for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

However, about two thirds (67 per cent) of respondents said that the statement "Program information on the Internet was clearly presented" was not applicable. As well, only seven respondents said they heard about the program from the Internet.

Predominantly, respondents found the program criteria easy to understand and easy to find out about. Just over 90 per cent of respondents, strongly agreed (63 per cent) and somewhat agreed (28 per cent) with the statement "Criteria for applying to the program was easy to understand." Almost three quarters of respondents either strongly agreed (35 per cent) or somewhat agreed (38 per cent) with the statement "It was easy to find out about the program."

Furthermore, the majority of respondents were well informed and did not encounter problems with the application process. A little over half of respondents (55 per cent) strongly agreed and 34 per cent of respondents somewhat agreed with the statement "I was informed about everything I had to do to apply for the program."



Note: **Agree** combines responses for strongly agree and somewhat agree; **disagree** combines responses for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

Only 8 per cent said that they encountered problems with the ANSSS application process. Some of the difficulties were understanding the requirements; confusion over the application; the scholarship prevented receipt of other scholarships; and, the scholarship was only available for two years.

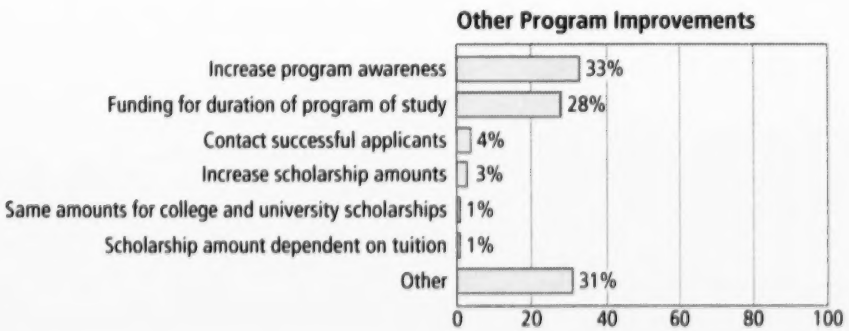
Respondents overwhelmingly (88%) said they did not encounter difficulties determining if they were approved for ANSSS. The most common difficulty, for the small number of respondents who experienced problems, was late notification and no notification.

Most respondents (86 per cent) did not encounter difficulties determining if the ANSSS was received. If there were problems, the most common ones were not knowing that the university would receive the money directly or the university receiving the money too late.

Program Funding

As mentioned earlier, most respondents required financial resources in addition to their ANSSS to pay for education. Two thirds of respondents said their scholarship offset a third or less of their tuition.

When asked about any other improvements to the ANSSS program, many comments involved the amount of funding received from the program. About three quarters of respondents answered this question. About one quarter (28 per cent) of respondents recommended that funding continue for the duration of their program. Other comments given in response to this question were to increase scholarship amounts; to have the scholarship dependent on tuition amount; and, increase the community college award to match the amount of the university entrance scholarship.



Feedback from survey respondents about the application process, application material, and administration of the program was generally encouraging. Most respondents said that ANSSS application material, pamphlets, and application criteria were easy to understand and available.

Most respondents who worked with ACS staff rated the program administration positively. However, about a quarter to one-half of respondents said that the questions about ACS staff were not applicable. Perhaps those who rated the statements as not applicable were not aware that staff were available as a resource.

When it comes to the program's profile and knowledge of the program in the schools and the community, the survey results were mixed. High school counsellors along with family members were the main source of information about the program, and high school counsellors were rated positively by most respondents in their ability to provide information about the program. Teachers, on the other hand, were assessed poorly in their knowledge of the program. Although the majority of respondents said that applications and pamphlets were available at their school, few heard about the program through promotional material. Very few respondents heard about the program through the media, Internet, Black student advisors, or community agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the issues that stand out from results of the program survey. As mentioned before, the response rate for the survey was low at 29 per cent. However, despite the low response rate, there were a few strong messages from 232 respondents that could be considered for improvements to the program.

1. **Improve knowledge about the program with high school teachers.** Half of respondents strongly disagreed or somewhat disagreed with the statement "My teacher was aware of the program and able to explain it to me" and 27 per cent said this statement was not applicable. As well, only 30 respondents said they heard about the ANSSS program from their teacher.

2. **Improve the profile of ACS staff as a resource for ANSSS program applicants.** When asked about interactions with ACS staff, respondents who worked with staff were generally positive. However, a number of respondents rated the questions about the ACS staff as not applicable. There may be a need to improve the understanding that ACS staff are available for applicant support and assistance.

3. **Maintain and build on the current practices of the application process.** Feedback on the application process was predominantly positive. Most respondents felt that they were informed about everything they needed to do to apply and that the applications, pamphlets, and application criteria were easy to understand.

4. **Promote the ANSSS program's Internet site and program material.** Very few respondents heard about the program from the Internet and promotional material. As well, most respondents rated the statement about the ANSSS program's web page as not applicable.

5. **Examine scholarship funding including amounts and duration of funding.** The scholarship covered one third or less of education costs for most respondents. As well, funding was mentioned by a number of respondents when asked for comments. Feedback included requests to increase the amount of the scholarship; have the scholarship last for the duration of the program of study; and increase the amount of the community college award to match the university entrance scholarship.

CONCLUSION

Due to the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program Survey's low response rate, it is difficult to apply the results of the survey to the population of ANSSS recipients and to the scholarship program in general. However, the survey results provide a commentary from the 232 ANSSS recipients who responded to the survey and insight into the ANSSS program.

The financial incentive associated with the ANSSS was small according to survey respondents. The scholarship defrayed only a small amount of tuition costs and most respondents required additional financial resources to pay for their education.

Although the majority of respondents said they would have continued their education without the scholarship, it is notable that some respondents mentioned the ANSSS program's contribution to their ability to stay in school. Respondent's comments spoke about the personal encouragement and motivation they were given as a scholarship recipient.

The scholarship may have contributed to some respondents' career and educational objectives. Most respondents had either completed their program of study or were working towards its completion. More than two-thirds of respondents were employed, and more than half of the jobs held by survey respondents related either directly or indirectly to their program of study.

Responses about the application process and program administration were generally positive. According to survey respondents, there are areas for improvement in community knowledge and profile of the program. While high school counselors were assessed positively in their ability to provide information about the program, teachers were assessed poorly in their ability to explain the program. Very few respondents heard about the program through the media, Internet, Black student advisors, or community agencies.

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Saint-Pierre, Yves. Education Liaison Officer. E-mail from Statistics Canada July 28, 2005.

APPENDIX

African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program Survey

African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program Survey

A Department of Education committee has been formed to collect information from recipients of the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program, formerly called the Education Incentive Program (EIP). The information collected from this survey will help identify ways to improve the scholarship program.

You have been identified as having been a recipient of a scholarship(s) through the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program or EIP. We would greatly appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

Please note that your participation is completely voluntary and all your responses will be kept strictly confidential with no individual responses being identified.

Section I: About the Program

1. How did you hear about the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program? **(Check ALL that apply.)**

- ☐ Black Educators Association
- ☐ Black student advisors at university/college
- ☐ Community agency
- ☐ Community church
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ High school guidance counsellor
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Labour market information
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Parent, guardian, other family member
- ☐ Promotional material
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

2. For the following statements, please rate, on a scale from 1 to 4, your level of agreement with each statement as it pertains to the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program. (Note: ACSD refers to the African Canadian Services Division, Department of Education.)

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) Applications/pamphlets on the program were readily available at my school.	1	2	3	4	N/A
b) Applications/pamphlets on the program were easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	N/A
c) My guidance counsellor was able to explain the program to me.	1	2	3	4	N/A
d) Black student advisors were able to explain the program to me.	1	2	3	4	N/A
e) My teacher was aware of the program and able to explain it to me.	1	2	3	4	N/A
f) My community church knew about the program and could explain it to me.	1	2	3	4	N/A
g) Community agencies knew about the program and could explain it to me.	1	2	3	4	N/A
h) ACSD staff were available to answer my questions about the program.	1	2	3	4	N/A
i) ACSD staff were able to assist me in completing my application.	1	2	3	4	N/A
j) ACSD staff returned my messages in a timely fashion.	1	2	3	4	N/A
k) ACSD staff were helpful.	1	2	3	4	N/A
l) Criteria for applying to the program was easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	N/A
m) It was easy to find out about the program.	1	2	3	4	N/A
n) I was informed of everything I had to do in order to apply.	1	2	3	4	N/A
o) Program information on the Internet was clearly presented.	1	2	3	4	N/A

3. **Excluding the financial benefit** of receiving an African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship(s), what **other benefits** have you experienced from participating in the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program? **(Identify as many benefits as you can.)**

_____

_____

_____

4. When applying for an African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship, did you encounter any difficulties with the application process?

☐ No

☐ Yes, if yes, please describe these difficulties _____

_____

_____

5. Did you encounter any difficulties determining if you were approved as a recipient for an African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship?

☐ No

☐ Yes, if yes, please describe these difficulties _____

_____

_____

6. Did you encounter any difficulties in determining if your African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship had been received by your educational institution?

☐ No

☐ Yes, if yes, please describe these difficulties _____

_____

_____

7. Overall what other improvements to the African Nova Scotian Scholarship Program can you suggest? (Suggestions may pertain to the way the program is promoted, who qualifies for the program, the process for applying for a scholarship, the value of the scholarships, the way the scholarships are distributed, and any other suggestions for improvement.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Section II: Your Educational Program of Study

This section asks questions related to the educational program of study you were enrolled in for which you **first began receiving** your African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship.

8. What was the main reason you chose your particular educational program of study? **(Check the ONE reason that most applies.)**

☐ I had a personal interest in the subject
☐ It provided me with specific job skills
☐ It had low entrance requirements
☐ It helped me get a high-paying job
☐ It gave me a good chance for employment
☐ I wasn't accepted into my first choice
☐ It offered a variety of occupational choices
☐ It prepared me for transfer to university
☐ It was considered a prestigious program
☐ It was required for my choice of career
☐ It provided me with specific technical training
☐ Other (specify): _____

9. Have you completed your educational program of study?

☐ Yes

☐ No **(If no, please proceed to question 11.)**

10. What degree, diploma or certificate did you receive upon completion of your educational program of study? (Please provide full name; e.g. Bachelor of Science Degree)

_____ **(Please proceed to question 13.)**

11. If you have **not** completed your educational program of study, are you still enrolled and working toward its completion?

☐ Yes **(If yes, please proceed to question 13.)**

☐ No

12. If you have **not** completed your educational program of study, which if any, of the following factors have contributed to this situation? **(Check ALL that apply.)**

☐ I lacked the financial resources to continue my education

☐ I decided to change my career plan

☐ I did not like the educational program of study I was enrolled in

☐ I decided not to continue my post-secondary education

☐ I had personal reasons for discontinuing my program of study

☐ Other (specify): _____

Section III: Financing Your Post-Secondary Education

13. Would you have pursued a post-secondary education if you **had not received** a scholarship through the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Program?

☐ Yes, I still would have pursued my post-secondary education. **(Please proceed to question 15.)**

☐ No, I would not have pursued my post-secondary education. **If no**, why not?

_____

_____

14. What would you have done instead of pursuing your post-secondary education?

_____

_____

_____

15. Throughout your post-secondary education, what percentage of **tuition** would you estimate was offset by your scholarship(s) from the African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship Progrm?? **(Check ONE category only.)**

- ☐ 0–10%
- ☐ 11–20%
- ☐ 21–30%
- ☐ 31–40%
- ☐ 41–50%
- ☐ 51–60%
- ☐ 61–70%
- ☐ 71–80%
- ☐ 81–90%
- ☐ 91–100%

16. What additional financial resources did you use, besides your African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship (ANSSS), to pay for your post-secondary education? **(Check ALL that apply.)**

- ☐ None
- ☐ Part-time employment (less than 30 hours per week) during the school year
- ☐ Full-time employment (30 or more hours per week) during the school year
- ☐ Employment during the summer months
- ☐ Family support from parent(s), spouse, or other relative(s)
- ☐ Student loans
- ☐ Other loans
- ☐ Personal savings
- ☐ Registered Education Savings Plan
- ☐ Other scholarships, in addition to your ANSSS
- ☐ Bursaries, in addition to your ANSSS
- ☐ Grants, in addition to your ANSSS
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

17. **If, in question 16**, you indicated that you had received other scholarships, bursaries or grants **in addition** to your African Nova Scotian Student Scholarship, please provide information for each of these sources of income. **(Describe ALL that apply. If additional space is required, please record on back of survey.)**

☐ University entrance scholarship
Name of scholarship: _____ Dollar value: _____

☐ Achievement scholarship
Name of scholarship: _____ Dollar value: _____
Name of scholarship: _____ Dollar value: _____

☐ Bursary
Name of bursary: _____ Dollar value: _____
Name of bursary: _____ Dollar value: _____

☐ Grant
Name of grant: _____ Dollar value: _____
Name of grant: _____ Dollar value: _____

☐ Other
Name: _____ Dollar value: _____
Name: _____ Dollar value: _____

Section IV: Your Employment Situation

18. Are you currently employed?

☐ Yes
☐ No **(If no, please proceed to question 23.)**

19. Considering that you may currently hold more than one job, what would you consider your **main** job? (For the purposes of this survey, main job is defined as the job at which you work the most hours per week.) Provide your job title and a brief description of your job related responsibilities.

_____

_____

_____

20. To what extent do you feel your **main** job is related to your educational program of study? **(Check ONE.)**

☐ Directly related ☐ Indirectly related ☐ Not related

21. Would you describe your **main** job as: **(Check ONE.)**

☐ Full time (30 or more hours a week) ☐ Part time (less than 30 hours a week)

22. Would you describe your **main** job as: **(Check ONE.)**

☐ Permanent (without a known termination date)
☐ Temporary or term
☐ Contract
☐ Casual
☐ Seasonal
☐ Other (specify): _____

Section V: Demographic Information

23. Do you currently live in Nova Scotia?

☐ Yes. **If yes,** what county in Nova Scotia? _____
☐ No. **If no,** where are you currently living (province/state/country)? _____

24. To which of the following age categories do you belong at **this** time?

☐ 20–25 years
☐ 26–30 years
☐ 31–35 years
☐ 36–40 years
☐ over 40 years

Section VI: In Closing

25. If you have any additional comments concerning any aspects of this program, please provide them below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please return your questionnaire in the enclosed envelope.

THANK YOU